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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th August 1905.

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ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—Foreign Politics.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hublul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 31st July has the following:— ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN, July 31st, 1905.

The Russo-Japanese war.

The question is whether, if Germany and France making a common cause with Russia try to prevent Japan from enjoying the fruit of her victory over Russia, England and the United States will remain neutral. If, however, Russia gets any sort of help from Germany and France, Japan will continue the war and give up the idea of a peace, thus forcing England to help her against the above two Powers.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HUBLUL MATEEN.

2. The same paper in a long article on the Seistan Commission lays great stress upon the fact that the boundary settlement effected by Colonel MacMahon's Commission differs to a certain extent from that which was effected by Mr. Goldsmith, as the former includes in the Afghan territory some portion of Seistan which, according to Mr. Goldmith's settlement, falls within Persia.

The Seistan Commission.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

3. The *Chinsurah Vartavaha* [Chinsurah] of the 30th July says that at about 4-30 in the afternoon of the 21st July last, while the editor of this paper was passing along Lower Chitpur Road, just at its point of junction with Canning and Colootola streets, a fierce-looking Musalman pick-pocket robbed him of his purse. The sight of the handle of a knife or some other instrument on the person of the thief deterred the editor from attempting to catch hold of him. He quietly submitted to the loss, without even reporting the matter to the police. If lawlessness of this sort takes place in one of the busiest streets of the metropolis, how can people expect to live in safety in the mufassal? CHINSURA VARTAVAHA, July 30th, 1905.

A case of lawlessness in Calcutta.

4. A correspondent writing to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 31st July says that the neighbourhood of Jugannath Ghat and the Mint on Strand Road, in Calcutta, has of late become the scene of operation of a number of lawless characters. Near the north corner of the Mint is situated a godown of Messrs. MacNeil & Co.'s, which accounts for the presence at this spot at all hours of the day of a large number of drivers of bullock-carts. And right opposite to this godown is situated the shop of a *bhunawala*, presided over by a male and a female, which forms the focus of crime here so to speak. The *modus operandi* adopted usually is as follows: When a purchaser comes to make a purchase at this shop, an immoderately high price is demanded from him, and on his objecting, some pretext for a quarrel is found, whereupon a dozen *lathials* are down upon him in no time. These *lathials* are mostly the drivers of bullock-carts referred to above. DAILY HITAVADI, July 31st, 1905.

Lawlessness in Strand Road in Calcutta.

The correspondent was a personal witness of three or four such occurrences. One day he saw a respectable gentleman being assaulted with a broom-stick by the female who, as before mentioned, runs the shop in company with a male. On another occasion he saw the same female catching another man by the hair and in the act of raising a *nagora* shoe to strike him with. On a third occasion, at about 10 o'lclock in the morning, a female aged 25 or 30 was seen being dishonoured. A fourth case is related as follows: On the evening of the 25th July last a highly respectable gentleman, while passing along in front of this shop, halted and took up a mango from the dish on which it was lying, evidently exposed for sale, in order to examine it with a view to purchase. After he had examined the mango, he enquired the price, whereupon the female shop-keeper flew into a rage and insolently demanded of the gentleman why he had taken up the mango in his hand, who had told him that these fruits were for sale, and what business he had to ask about the price from her. The gentleman recovered from his surprise, and by the time he had restored the fruit he had taken up to its original place in the plate, found himself surrounded by a number of local roughs, who began to thrash him. At this point, a second gentleman arrived

on the scene, and by his efforts to get the first gentleman out of the difficulty, drew upon himself the wrath which was hitherto finding vent on the first gentleman. A policeman, who was a witness of all this rowdyism on a public street, did not deem it his duty to interfere.

The correspondent concludes by alleging that the *feriwallahs* (hawkers of goods) on the Harrison Road also are in the habit of first taking the price and afterwards refusing to part with their goods in return. If any intending purchaser in these circumstances proves disagreeable he is stripped of all valuables he may have on his person at the time. These practices are indulged in with the collusion of the beat constables who are won over by bribes.

DAILY HITAVADI, August 1st, 1905.

Depredations by wild beasts in Jessore and Khulna.

5. A correspondent writes to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August, dwelling on the extent to which the Arms Act is injuring the interests of the country by encouraging lawlessness and the depredations of wild animals. Reference by way of illustrations is made to the case of the villages of Chanchra, Ratnagar, Rupdia, Nanudrapur, Chenguha and Singia in Jessore, and of Bahirdia, Kamata, Nalda, Utkul, Pinpaksha, Paikpara, &c., in the Bagirhat Subdivision of Khulna, where it is alleged the depredations of wild beasts have seriously increased of late. The correspondent concludes by drawing attention to the increasing severity with which the Act is now being enforced in some places.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

HITAVARTA, July 30th, 1905.

Tho Khargpur outrage case.

6. Referring to the judgment resulting in the acquittal of the European ticket-collector who was charged with having shamefully insulted a female passenger, named Hari Priya Dasi, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th July wants to know why the accused was committed to the Sessions at all if the charge against him was false. Again if the charge was false, why was not a defamation case instituted against the woman?

The fact is the European Judges consider it their duty to acquit offenders when they happen to be their own countrymen. It is hoped the authorities will take due notice of such judgments. As a sequel to the above, news of European Railway staff assaulting women passengers are being received from Saran.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI, July 27th, 1905.

A recent appointment as Additional Deputy-Inspector of Schools, Mymensingh.

7. In noticing the appointment of Moulvi Zahirul Huq, B.A., Head Master, Anglo-Persian Department, Chittagong Madrassah, (Class VII), on probation for six months, to be Additional Deputy-Inspector of Schools, Mymensingh, *vice* Moulvi Atai Elahi, notified in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 12th July last, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th July writes:—

There are already three Sub-Inspectors of Schools in Mymensingh on Rs. 100 each. And one of them has already acted for six months as a Deputy Inspector at Barisal. What incongruous and shameful things are being perpetrated in the Education Department in Mr. Pedler's *regimé*. It is needless to point out that a gentleman who is appointed a Deputy-Inspector of Schools on Rs. 60 must necessarily be a young and inexperienced man. How such a man will be able to preserve his self-respect before his Subordinate Sub-Inspectors drawing larger pay, is a question which nobody except Mr. Pedler can satisfactorily answer.

BASUMATI, July 29th 1905,.

Allegations in connection with the Eden Hindu Hostel, Calcutta.

8. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 29th July complains about the inferior quality of the food supplied to the boarders of the Eden Hindu Hostel at Calcutta. Complaint is also made about the non-observance, owing to the neglect of the Superintendent, of the prescribed sanitary rules in the hostel. And, lastly, it is alleged that while some students, even of the Presidency College, are being refused admission into the hostel on the plea of want of accommodation; a professor of a private college who may or may not in some way be connected with the Superintendent, is being permitted to continue as a boarder.

HITAVARTA, July 30th, 1905.

Teacher-candidates for F.A., B.A. and M.A. examinations.

9. Referring to the recent rule under which teachers of schools will not be permitted to go up for the F.A., B.A. and M.A. examinations without the permission of the Senate, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th July says that in spite of the above fact Lord Curzon speaks of having introduced new measures for the development of education in India. This is why we say elephants have two sets of teeth—one for chewing food, and the other for show.

NIHAR, August 1st, 1905.

The system of Primary education.

10. A correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 1st August says that ever since the late conversion of the lower and upper primary examinations into mere scholarship examinations for a restricted number of selected students, there has been a marked deterioration of primary education in this country. The enthusiasm of the public for education has undergone a steady decline since the inauguration of this change. In this country, pecuniary circumstances compel lads in most cases to be content with such education as only the primary system furnishes. Under the old arrangements the syllabus in the primary system in subjects like arithmetic, literature, mensuration, grammar, geography, etc., was such as to equip the lads with an amount of knowledge which was sufficient for practical purposes. But the text-books which are now taught in the primary curriculum cannot be expected to yield an equal amount of knowledge. Further, the abolition of the public examination has brought into discredit the course of instruction which led up to these examinations. And the guardians of the lads now hesitate to go to the expense of putting their lads through this system of instruction. The lads themselves, moreover, formerly had the examination to look to, as an incentive to hard study, as failure to pass it would have meant disgrace with their friends and guardians. Similarly also the teachers were stirred up to zeal in their work by the fear that bad results in an examination would be followed by a stoppage of grants-in-aid.

The Kindergarten system which has now been introduced cannot be expected to improve the education of little boys in this country. For here children are not sent to school till they are five years old. Usually six or seven is the age at which they are admitted into the *pathsalas*.

Instruction in drill is not needed in this country, since lads here have to undertake the performance of many household duties, which give sufficient exercise to their limbs.

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SANJIVANI, July 27th, 1905.

Pollution by jute-steeping of a stream in Jessore.

11. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th July appeals to the Collector of Jessore to take some action regarding the pollution of the stream named Betravati in the Bongong subdivision of that district by jute-steeping. It appears that this stream has on both its banks populous villages, to the inhabitants of which its water forms the only source of a supply of drinking-water. In spite of this, however, from the middle of July, jute-steeping is carried on in it to such an extent that three or four miles of the surface of the stream are quite covered over with the jute fibre, obstructing navigation by boats, and turning the sluggish water of the stream for miles away into a deep black colour. In fact the water becomes so much polluted that the fish in it die and begin to float on the surface It is easy to imagine that the compulsory use of this sort of water by the villagers leads to annual outbreaks of epidemics of malaria and cholera among them. From the beginning of *Bhadra* to the end of *Agrahayan*, the miseries of the villagers from this cause know no end.

DAILY HITAVADI, July 31st, 1905.

The suggested railway terminal tax in Calcutta.

12. Referring to the suggestion made in connexion with the Calcutta improvement scheme about the levy of a terminal tax on railway passengers, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 31st July observes that those who travel to and from Calcutta on business are in the majority of instances rather poor, but have none the less to live up to the style of the respectable classes. Since they do not add to the population of the city, it would be the height of injustice to throw any burden on their shoulders. It is suggested

as an alternative that instead of a passenger terminal tax, each of the railways having their termini at Calcutta should be made to pay in a certain sum. The interests of these railways are intimately bound up with the improvement of Calcutta. And if even this alternative be not thought free from objection, the suggested jute-duty might be levied at a higher rate than now contemplated. Any of these alternatives, if accepted, will save Government from perpetrating the injustice of adding to the burdens of those already sorely burdened.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SOLTAN, July 28th, 1905.

The Karatiya estate in Tangail.

13. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 28th July is informed that the Karatiya *waqf* property in Tangail in Mymensingh, yielding an income of about 3 lakhs annually, has recently been amicably partitioned. By mutual agreement the *waqf* has been discontinued, the heirs have partitioned the property, and applied to the Collectorate for the registration of their names not as *matwallis* but as heirs. This is a *waqf* which was created about 30 years ago by the late zamindar Sadat Ali Khan of Karatiya. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will early inquire into the facts of this case, and, entrusting the management of the property to the local Collector, arrange for the preservation of the mosques, Madrassahs, hospitals, etc., now existing in connection with the *waqf*. It is further to be wished that the Collector should refuse the mutation of name from *matwalli* to heir, as prayed for, until the *waqf* is not changed by a Civil Court, after the payment of the regular Court-fees.

This property has continued for 30 years registered in the name of a *matwalli* and cannot, therefore, be again registered in the Collectorate in the name of heirs, simply by the award of a whimsical arbitrator. For if mutation of names be effected so easily, the sale of Court-fees will soon come to an end and the Civil Courts also will soon find their occupation gone. To an estate which has been *waqf* for 30 years, heirs as heirs have no claim. Until these heirs prove their rights in Court and are given possession, it will be illegal for the Collector to register the property in their names. Further, the tenants on the estates have for 30 years continued paying their rents to one *matwalli*, between whom and themselves all classes of rights, *patni*, *kayami*, etc., have been created. If these tenants are now to pay their rents to the different heirs who enter into possession of different parts of the estate by amicable arrangement between themselves, serious difficulties and oppressions are likely to be the results.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

SANJIVANI, July 27th, 1905.

Outrages on females on railways and steamers.

14. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th July writes as follows under the heading "Mother, who holds the scimitar and the skull in her hands (referring to the goddess Kali of the Pauranic mythology), it is for thee to heal the wound of insults":—

Chaste women of Bengal, for once take up the scimitar in your hands. Virtue will not be saved except by the aid of the sword. The women of Bengal are weak and do not know how to protect themselves. Therefore it is that the demons are now able to trample upon the race of goddesses.

A month does not pass without one or more white-skinned railway employés outraging the modesty of Bengali females. We do not see any way of preserving their virtue except by the use of the sword.

[Reference is here made to the recent case of this kind at Saran and Khargpur.]

Travelling on railways cannot be avoided. But it is difficult to count up the cases of outrage on females which occur every year. Except the use of the sword, we do not see any means for preserving our women-kind from such intolerable insults.

We therefore request our women-kind to take to the use of arms. Let each female, when intending to travel by rail, conceal a long knife inside her clothes before she leaves home. Whenever she sees anybody preparing to make any attempt on her virtue, let her save herself by thrusting the knife

with force into the breast of that man. There is no other way except this of preserving the honour of women on railways and steamers.

HITAVARTA, July 30th, 1905.

A railway complaint.

15. A correspondent of the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th July named Tripathy Benimadhava Sharma, teacher, Girls' school, Bettiah, complains, as a result of his experience in travelling from Bettiah to Cawnpur on the 27th May last, of want of sufficient supply of drinking-water at a station of the Bengal North-Western Railway, want of light before the booking offices, overcrowding in trains owing to the arbitrary conduct of the staff who force in passengers into carriages which are already full, and of the detention of passengers at stations before their tickets are taken and the way out shown to them.

DAILY HITAVADI, July 30th, 1905.

Rampurhat station, East Indian Railway.

16. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th July publishes a letter making the following allegations in connection with Rampurhat station, East Indian Railway:—

(1) The station-master Mr. Power, spends too much of his time in fishing to discharge his official duties properly, which he leaves mainly to a ticket-collector named Sri Bullabh Chatturaj.

(2) The vendor of sweet-meats and refreshments at this station, though once convicted in the local Criminal Court of selling unhealthy food, is still permitted to ply his trade. He assists Mr. Power in many little ways in the latter's fishing trips.

DAILY HITAVADI, August 1st, 1905.

A railway complaint.

17. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August writes:—

At Chatra, between the Serampore and Seoraphuli stations, on the East Indian Railway, there are at certain intervals a number of pathways across the railway line which are used very frequently by the local villagers for convenience of communication. But crossing the railway line is attended with danger to life, as is evidenced by the many accidents which have already occurred here. The local public have accordingly repeatedly petitioned the railway authorities for a durwan to stand guard at these pathways, but as yet without avail. From Baidyabati to Serampore the railway line passes through populous villages; all the pathways across the line in these parts should be guarded by a durwan in the employ of the Railway Company. A man got run over by a passing train between Baidybati and Seoraphuli on the morning of the 31st July last. He might have escaped his doom if a durwan had been stationed here to warn him off.

There is another point in this connection which we wish also to raise. In the case of a man or an animal being run over by a passing train, why is not the dead body removed immediately after the accident? In the case referred to just now the corpse continued to lie beside the line till 11 A.M., furnishing a gruesome and unpleasant spectacle to the large number of people who had occasion to pass by it either on foot or on rail.

(*h*)—*General.*

CHARU MIHIR, July 25th, 1905.

The partition question.

18. Referring to the partition of Bengal, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 25th July, which is published with black-borders, writes as follows:—

Our duty now is one from which we should not shrink or swerve. All our efforts will now he directed to the attainment of one aim and one object. You will divide us but we shall not be divided; you will weaken us but we shall not be weakened; you will separate Eastern Bengal from Western Bengal and thus weaken both but we shall remain united and be stronger than before. This shall be the religion of our lives, and we shall convert others to it. We shall compose songs on the subject in simple village dialects and teach them to village boys. These songs will be sung in every village and in every household in Bengal. They will be the Bengali's national songs to be sung on all occasions whether of joy or of sorrow; of good luck or of ill-luck. They will sanctify our houses and the atmosphere of our country, and make our lives worth living. We shall follow this religion till the end of our lives and shall not give it up so long as all Bengal is not rennited under one administration.

The same paper writes as follows in another article:—

Lord Curzon and his supporters know us. We are not also unknown in England. If we could give life to our agitation and actually felt sorrow at

the dissection of mother Bengal, the partition would not have been effected. Even now if we become alive to the situation and act accordingly, the partition will not be effected, and Government's order on the subject will for ever remain a dead letter—Government itself will not carry it out. If the Secretary of State for India knew that public opinion in Bengal had any power, he would not have acceded to Lord Curzon's request regarding the partition. By Lord Curzon's acts people are losing faith in the British Government. A strong public opinion is in this manner being formed everywhere. If Mr. Brodrick could see all these signs of the time, he would not have sanctioned the partition scheme.

CHARU MIHIR.

19. The same paper publishes a letter written by the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu to a respectable person in Mymensingh in which the following is contained:—

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu's letter.

A petition should be sent to Government from Western Bengal to the effect that the few districts in Western Bengal in which the Bêngali language is spoken should be transferred to the new province.

We should from this time be resolved to keep the High Court and the University intact.

I shall write to you of other things later on just as time will make us realise the weight of the calamity which has overtaken us. Do you know what happens to a man when he loses his dearest son? The poor father cannot at first realise the depth of the wound he has received. But as time passes on he feels how severe it is, that it cannot be healed by anything in the world. Our condition is almost the same now. An alien sovereign is creating a distance between us from which we can save ourselves only by putting forth great energy in the matter, by making a mighty endeavour, and above all, by the display of an unalloyed love for our mother country. Shall we be saved from this danger? If we are men, we shall. If not, we have been rightly served.

BARISAL HITAISHI, July 26th, 1905.

20. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 26th July publishes the details about the administration of the new Province within heavy black-borders.

The partition question.

The same paper also notices a monster meeting to protest against the partition scheme in the court-yard of the Braja Mohan Institution, Barisal, on the 26th instant. A gathering of over a thousand heads, Hindu and Musalman, attended.

SWADES HITAISHI, July 26th, 1905.

21. The *Swades Hitaishi* [Rangpur] of the 26th July writes:—

The partition question.

In the days of Hindu and Musalman rule how many storms swept over the country, how much ruin and danger fell to the lot of Bengal, how many Tamerlanes, Serajud-dowlas, and Maratha marauders steeped the country in blood by their oppressions, but never was there anything like this. Never before did the heart's blood of every Bengali, irrespective of age and sex, dry up at every intake and outflow of the breath as on the present occasion. Never did such a thunderbolt fall on the heads of the entire people. Never before did such a strange lightning shock of mingled fear and amazement pass through the body of the whole race, making the hair stand on end.

MURSHIDABAD HITAISHI, July 26th, 1905.

22. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 26th July writes as follows with reference to the partition question:—

The partition question.

Those days are gone, the old race of Englishmen and Indians is extinct, and gratitude has disappeared from the face of the country. Now-a-days he to whom you will pay worship with all possible magnificence, will show his satisfaction with you by subjecting you to terrible oppression. This is the way with the gods of the present day. With these present day disposers of events silence is the best policy, there is no need for any ostentatious display either of satisfaction or dissatisfaction, or of welcome or farewells. It would be best to keep at a respectful distance. What is the use of being any more reduced to penury to please a Commissioner or to welcome a Viceroy or a Lieutenant-Governor on tour? We do not see any necessity whatever for any such shows in future. It is our duty to put up with everything in silence when repeated experience shows that protests avail nothing. Bengal is partitioned, that cannot be helped; but all should now be

careful to see that the unity of the two provinces is preserved, that one life animates the people of both provinces when the need for action arises. Let all try and hold the National Congress next year at Dacca, so that all Bengalis may congregate there. Everything should now be so managed as to produce ties of intimacy with the people of the severed districts. In this way all the efforts of the officials will come to nothing. It would be enough now if brotherly feeling exists between us two.

A correspondent writes to the same paper :—

The English are the absolute masters of our country and can do whatever they like. Suppose the English Raj proclaims to-day that within a week's time all Hindus must accept Christianity or would be blown off from the cannon's mouth, how many of us would in that case be able to make a courageous stand against the English. We would either have to bow our heads and be converted or we would have to submit to being blown off. When this is the extent of our might, what is the use of mere talk? We ought to be thankful for our luck that the English have not yet put us to the alternative of the sword or the rifle.

23. The *Maldaha Samachar* [Malda] of the 26th July writes :— MALDAHA SAMACHAR, July 26th, 1905.

The partition question.

Maldah is a district in the Bhagalpur division, and not the slightest hint was ever previously given that any part of the Bhagalpur Division would be affected by the partition scheme. Hitherto the Malda public, without any thought that they were themselves in danger, were freely sympathising with their fellow-countrymen less fortunate in this respect, but now on a sudden they themselves are swept away by the flood.

Many might enquire whether any previous intimation that Maldah would be separated would have done any good. Did it do any good in the case of the other districts in similar plight? What would a meeting or a memorial have done? The answer to that question is that the possession of such previous knowledge would at least have prevented the sense of the suddenness of the stroke which is now felt. We would at any rate have given vent to the sore feeling of pain in our hearts. Before the promulgation of the Government Resolution we might at least have proclaimed in loud tones our heart's sorrow. With a foreknowledge of their impending doom, men are not so overcome as in the case of a stroke suddenly falling.

24. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 26th July writes with reference to the partition question :— MEDINI BANDHAV, July 26th, 1905.

The partition question.

The times now-a-days are such that weeping will do no good—cries that might rend the skies will go for nothing. How many are the persons who listen to a beggar's tale of distress? The practice of begging must be given up and instead we must learn to stand on our own legs. Let the partition of Bengal bring home to us this lesson of wisdom. Alas! oh God! when will our eyes be opened to this truth?

25. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 26th July writes as follows under the heading "A call to agitation":— JASOHAR, July 26th, 1905.

The partition question.

We repeatedly request the eminent sons of Jessore to raise a wave of agitation against the partition of Bengal. Now shall we see whether any life exists among the public of Jessore. Now shall we see if any roaring of thundercloud is possible in the native district of the author of *Megnadbadh*, whether any brave young man exists in the native district of the authoress of *Bir Kumar badh*. Now shall we see how far the Jessore people are justified in boasting about Sitaram, and how many reverent followers of Pratapaditya it contains. Now shall we see if Jessore proves itself worthy of the honour of being the birth-place of Menahati. Ye men of Jessore, advance, ye can lay down your lives to appease malaria and cholera, can ye not devote your lives to raising up an agitation against the partition of your fatherland? What is the prospect before ye. Brother from brother, friend from friend, relative from relative is going to be separated for ever. Advance with "*Jai* Sitaram," "*Jai* Pratapaditya," and "Long live our mother country" as the battle cries. Do not remain silent any longer.

26. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th July writes:— SANJIVANI, July 27th, 1905.

The partition question.

Lord Curzon is encouraged by previous experience to prophesy that the agitation against the

partition of Bengal will soon quiet down. His Excellency supposes that the Bengalis are a lifeless people, whose energy and perseverance will evaporate in a very short time. Evidently His Excellency must be ignorant of the new life which has come to the people of Bengal to dare to pose as a prophet in the present case.

Lord Curzon has directed that the Bengali people be split up into two. The prospect of death has not made the Bengalis afraid. Bengalis will no longer, at the sight of impending calamity, shed tears. Remembering as they do their weakness, their eyes are dry and their hearts are filled with great courage. They are resolving to make the utmost endeavour to preserve the life of their fatherland.

A monster meeting will be held on the 7th August next at the Calcutta Town Hall to arrive at a decision as to the duty of the people of Bengal in connexion with the partition. All the leading men of the different sections of the community and of the different parts of the Province will join this assembly with zeal and enthusiasm.

If anybody enquires what is to be done at this meeting, then our answer is, that just as in each temple of the Parsees there is a flame burning from time immemorial, so at this meeting in the heart of every Bengali is to be lit up a flame which will continue burning in his heart until the severed father-land is re-united.

The reproach that the Bengalis lack firmness of character will now be removed. At this monster meeting Bengalis will resolve, that until the race is re-united they will not cease agitating vigorously.

At this monster meeting in the presence of the immortal spirits in heaven and in the presence of the world at large, Bengalis will bind themselves under an engagement that until the severed body of their fatherland is re-united their period of mourning will not come to an end.

Bengalis have arrived at a crisis of life and death. They have welcomed death on many occasions; on the present, they will engage in a great endeavour to preserve their lives.

The same paper writes:—

Chota Nagpur is not to be separated from Bengal in consequence of the opposition of the European mercantile community. Similarly Madras is not to be partitioned owing to the opposition of the Local Governor. The leading men of Bengal called upon the Lieutenant-Governor and appealed to him in so many ways to preserve their country in its integrity. How much lip-sympathy did His Honour not express on that occasion. He even took down with his own hand the grounds of objection stated, and he further promised to convey to the Viceroy the sentiments of the people of Bengal. But as a matter of fact what he actually did was to recommend to the Government of India the separation of Rangpur, Pabna, Bogra, Faridpur and Backergunge also from the parent province in addition to the districts whose separation had already been suggested. If His Honour had protested, then Lord Curzon would never have dared to partition Bengal.

The prayer of thirty million Bengalis is ignored while the protests of a number of Europeans engaged in the coal trade are sufficient to deter Lord Curzon from separating Chota Nagpur from Bengal.

"*Brethren living apart.*"

On the ground of the possession of a common language, certain readjustments of territory are justified between the Central Provinces and Bengal. But why are the 43 millions of Bengal proper, speaking the same language, placed under two different Governments?

Bengalis will henceforth be trampled under foot. In the parent Province the Bengali-speaking population will be 17 millions, while the Hindi-speaking population of the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions alone will be 24 millions. Even at present, Bengalis are refused facilities for admission into the schools and into the public service in Bihar. Englishmen do not wish in fact that Bengalis should live in Bihar. With the Bihari race in numerical preponderance over the Bengali, will not the Government show greater regard for the interests of the Biharis than for those of the Bengalis? What will be the fate of the Bengalis then?

A device to create a rivalry between Hindus and Musalmans.

Lord Curzon wishes to establish the predominance of the Musalman community in the new Province and to retain the predominance of the Hindus in the old. Living as they have been side by side for seven centuries, the Hindus and Musalmans of Bengal Proper have come to look upon each other as brethren. In Bengal Proper there is no enmity between Hindus and Musalmans. Both these sections of the community glory in calling themselves by the common name of Bengalis. Go to any village in Bengal and you will find that between the Musalman and the Hindu there have been established relations such as exist between brother and brother, uncle and nephew, etc. Where there exists this peace and union Lord Curzon wishes to bring discord. He has held out the enticing prospect of Hindus dominating Musalmans in the Western, and the Musalmans dominating Hindus in the Eastern Province. But in India, who dominates whom? So the Hindus and Musalmans are dominated by the English.

Dacca as the Capital of the new Province.

In the Government Resolution, Dacca is described as the "natural capital" of the Musalmans who are to form the predominating element of the population of the new Province. This is amazing. From page 6 of the Census Report of Bengal, it appears that Baktiyar Khiliji conquered Gaur, the capital of Bengal, and Navadwip in 1199 A. D. From that date until 1608, either Gaur, a place in its neighbourhood like Pandua and Rajmahal continued to be the capital of the Musalman rulers of Bengal. It was not until 1608 that the capital was transferred to Dacca, only however to be re-transferred to Murshidabad about 100 years later. And it was this latter town which continued to be the capital of Bengal till the close of Musalman rule. How then can Dacca be described as the "natural capital" of the Musalmans of Bengal? The Musalmans of Bengal certainly do not regard Dacca with greater reverence than Gaur or Murshidabad.

As regards the predominance of the Hindu element in the population of the older province, of this Hindu element of 42 millions only 11 millions will be Bengali-speaking. So in Bengal the Bengalis will never be numerically predominant.

False words of Hope.

"When old connections are severed," says Lord Curzon, "new ones almost immediately take their place." His Excellency has been able to form no idea at all of the feeling of the Bengalis on the present question. Marriage ties are formed between East and West Bengal. Owing to difference of race, marriages are not permissible between Assamese and Bengalis, though they may belong to the same caste. The marriage question has become a serious difficulty among Bengalis. The question would have found a speedy solution if East and West and North and South Bengal had remained one. But Lord Curzon has now rendered all that impossible. How can Bengalis forget that?

Lord Curzon has murdered the old ties, and there is no means of forming new ones. Naturally therefore he will be regarded by Bengalis for all time as the greatest enemy of Hindu society.

Government looks to its own convenience.

Lord Curzon declares that "the Government which is called upon to decide such cases must regard them from a wider standpoint than that of purely local and in all probability transient considerations. They are bound to keep in view the interests of the Government and of the people as a whole."

But who are "the people as a whole" according to Lord Curzon? Does "the people as a whole" mean Lord Curzon and a number of civilians, or does it refer to the 50 millions of Bengal proper? These 50 millions with unanimity declare against the partition scheme as one which would be ruinous to their interests, but that opinion goes for nothing, while all the weight is given to the opinion of those civilians who are likely to get fat berths in the new administration.

Vain Arguments.

"The very last charge," we read, "that could with justice be brought against the Government would be one of undue speed in arriving at a final decision" in the present case. This quite takes our breath away. That the Rajshahi Division and Faridpur, Backergunge and Maldah were to form parts of the new Province was a fact which was never communicated to the public by Government, it was only the proposal to separate the Chittagong Division and Dacca and Mymensingh which was put before the public 18 months ago.

Admitting that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal does require relief, that relief might have been given without placing the Bengali-speaking people under two Governments. Assam and Bengal proper might have formed one charge, and Bihar, Chota Nagpur and Orissa might have formed a new charge, with a population of 33 millions. This was a scheme which would have met with no opposition, and which would not have been very expensive.

In what ways will the Bengali suffer from the Partition Scheme.

In the parent province, the predominance of the Bengalis ceases, since they are left in a numerical minority. The Bengal Council, for instance, will henceforth contain more Hindi-speaking members than Bengali-speaking ones. The zamindars of West Bengal, deprived of the aid of their fellow zamindars of East Bengal, will not be able to preserve their just rights. The High Court will gradually be converted into a Chief Court, a mere tool of the Executive. Bengalis will not be admitted into the public service anywhere in the Province except in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. Calcutta will gradually lose its trade, which is now mainly in the hands of people hailing from North and East Bengal. The eleven colleges, now existing in that city, will also, some of them soon be abolished. The cost of Government, now distributed over such a large population, will have to be borne by the smaller population of each area, and will therefore press more severely.

Then again, as regards the new Province, it is true a Legislative Council is going to be formed for it, but judging from the silence which Government has maintained on this point, its constitution is more likely to be nominative than elective. Next, though the jurisdiction of the High Court is maintained for the present over the new province, the creation of a Chief Court, manned by civilians principally, is merely a question of time. The public will thereby lose the protection now afforded by an independent High Court against executive high-handedness.

As regards the choice of the capital of the new Province, although Dacca is now fixed upon, it will not continue long to be such in the face of the growing commercial prosperity of Chittagong. It is the merchants and traders who are the real rulers of India, and they will not permit Dacca for long to continue the capital in preference to Chittagong.

The burden of the expenses of the new Government will retard the progress of East and North Bengal for half a century. The cost of the new offices and buildings at Dacca will not be any less than 14 or 15 crores of rupees. This money Lord Curzon is surely not going to find from his own pockets.

The same paper notices the following meetings to protest against the Partition scheme :—

(1) At Dinajpur, on the 21st July, under the presidency of the Maharaja of Dinajpur, the principal speaker was Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose, who counselled all natives holding any honorary office under Government to resign their appointments.
(2) At Pabna on the 23rd July.
(3) At Faridpur on the 23rd July.
(4) At Tangail on the 22nd July.
(5) At Magura on the 23rd July.
(6) At Sherpur (Mymensingh) on the 17th July.
(7) At Bogra on the 22nd July.

A telegram is also published from the Secretary, Mymensingh Association protesting against the partition.

27. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th July writes as follows :— SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, July 27th, 1905.

The East Bengal petition to Mr. Brodrick.

A monster petition has been sent from Eastern Bengal to the Secretary of State for India against the partition of Bengal. But perhaps Lord Curzon, during his recent visit to England, gave Mr. Brodrick to understand that Bengalis were not men but only a class of animals, whose arguments and objections could have no force at all. It is, therefore, doubtful whether the petition will be able to change Mr. Brodrick's mind. In this partition affair we have come to see what honesty, sense of justice and spirit of kindness there are among English officials.

28. Referring to the Government's Resolution on the partition of Bengal, the same paper writes as follows :— SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA.

"No arguments but '*jabardasti*.'"

There is no lack of arguments in the Resolution, but they are far from convincing. Nor do they appear to be the product of a mature judgment. The arguments which Lord Curzon had first brought forward in support of the Partition scheme evoked from the public such strong and convincing counter arguments as to make it impossible for the authorities to controvert them. But still Government has thought fit to recur to the old plea that Bengal is too heavy a charge for one Lieutenant-Governor. One is, therefore, forced to the conclusion that it is only by *zabardasti* that the partition is being effected, there being really no good grounds to support the measure. Again, the partition has been sought to be justified on geographical, linguistic, social and ethnological grounds, but this is only adding insult to injury. All pure Assamese are Mongolians, and their language and society are quite distinct and different from those of the Bengalis. On the other hand, all Bengalis, whether of Eastern Bengal or Western Bengal, belong to one race and one society, and have one language, the petty local differences which are noticed here and there being only superficial. As to the question of geographical considerations supporting the partition, it may be pointed out that the wide expanse of the Jabuna river separates Pabna, Bogra and Rangpur from Mymensingh, and the mighty Padma separates Faridpur from Dacca. And Rajshahi and Faridpur are nearer to Calcutta than to Dacca. But as a matter of fact, Lord Curzon wants no arguments, nor has he any faith in them. He alone knows what his real object is in making the partition, but people find themselves obliged to believe that that object is to associate his name with a mighty achievement and divide the rising Bengali nation, and that to this end *zabardasti* is the only instrument at his disposal.

29. Referring to the partition of Bengal, the same paper writes as follows :— SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA.

The partition of Bengal.

What the authorities desire to do, they have done. But still we have faith in the sense of justice of the English people. We believe that there are still great advocates of justice in England, and all our prayers should be addressed to them. There is no one in India so foolish as to desire the downfall of the British power in the country, which can only have the effect of plunging it into universal anarchy or handing it over to some power with whom the people are not acquainted. What we pray for to our sovereign and the British people is that we should not be deprived of the rights and privileges of British subjects and oppressed by officials who are bent on making a name for themselves. But we have also our own duties in this connection for a due performance of which we have not to apply to others. Lord Curzon may try to divide and separate us, but we on our part shall try to tighten the bonds which already bind and unite us.

30. Referring to the partition scheme, the *Education Gazette* [Chinsurah] of the 28th July writes :— EDUCATION GAZETTE, July 28th, 1905.

The partition of Bengal.

That the whole of Bengal should remain together is a wish natural to every Bengali. We also did not wish otherwise. But since things have turned out differently under a decree of fate, we might at any rate consider carefully all the points of the new system and try to get some satisfaction out of some of them. So long as a question is open, it is right to fight for your side of the case. But once it is decided, whether the decision is favourable to your side or not does not affect the

issue, our work is finished. Then the time is come for peace to be restored to our hearts, and the smile to our lips. It is wrong to retain feelings of anger at that stage. This is the course counselled by our *Shastras*. Discontent and lack of self-control can never give happiness. Some of the dailies conducted by our countrymen point to the example of the agitation against the Indigo oppressions half-a-century ago, and threaten Government that something like that may be done by the Bengalis on the present occasion also. What sort of talk is all this? Why this sort of uncivil behaviour? The Bengalis put up with the oppressions of the Indigo planters. It was high-minded Government officials like Eden, Herschel, Smith, etc., who stood up for the natives against their own countrymen. Then it was that the Bengalis were rescued from indigo-oppressions. And besides, where is the resemblance between the action of Government in adjusting territorial boundaries and the oppressions of a class of private persons like the indigo-planters? What is the need or the good of insane talk like all this? The King occupies the position of a *guru* (preceptor) towards his subjects. No demands or arguments of ours can stand; once an order is issued, we must bow our heads in acceptance. We feel now that what is going to be will be for the interests of our countrymen. For under the new arrangements, Assam, which was hitherto separate from Bengal, is reunited with the majority of the Bengali-speaking population; whose duty it will now be to cement the union of hearts between these two races. Then again that the hill territories between Bengal and Burma are not transferred to Burma but are allowed to remain with Bengal is a fact to congratulate ourselves on. It will now be the primary duty of the Bengali people in East Bengal to devote all their strength to introduce the Bengali language and the Bengali civilization into these territories. Similarly the efforts of the people of West Bengal should be directed to extending the Bengali language among the people of the Sonthal Parganas, Chota Nagpur and Jharkhand.

The union of West Bengal with Bihar, which has linguistic and racial affinities with the people of the United Provinces, keeps the Bengalis in touch with the Hindustanis. In our opinion the appointment of a Deputy Lieutenant-Governor to do the inspection-work, and the retaining of the existing Lieutenant-Governor for purely office work would have been the best solution of this difficulty. But in knowledge of arrangement and method of official business the English must be admitted to be our superiors. Such a well regulated system of Government as the British, never existed before in this country, so, generally speaking, any opinion which an English official pronounces on questions like these must be accepted as the correct one. Under the new arrangements, the Assamese are linked with the Bengalis. And the Bengalis in both the provinces are one people, whom it is impossible to make two. The truth is that all India, united under one sway as it now is by the British, should be looked upon as our mother country. The scheme of keeping East and West Bengal together, while separating Bihar and Orissa was not a good one. It would have intensified the differencces between the Bengali on the one hand and the Biharis or Uriyas on the other. It would have put a wall between the two peoples, so to speak. Western Bengal now remains a link which connects the whole Bengali race and Assam with Orissa and Bihar, and indirectly with Madras and the United Provinces also. Bengal alone is not enough for the Bengalis now-a-days. All the different parts of India ought to remain knit to each other. The separation of East Bengal is a separation from one's own kith and kin, and may perhaps have beeen decreed by fate in order that the people in both the parts might be kept engaged in doing the work of their fatherland. Let the Bengali people in both the parts now give up agitating, for which too long a time has already been spent, and let them now devote themselves to the work of spreading the Aryan language and civilization among the non-Aryan races of India. This is the work for which we of the Aryan race came to India.

We Bengalis are trained according to the opinions of *Dayabhag*. We live separately it is true, but that is of no consequence. In both our households we shall perform acts of merit and thereby add to the sum total of virtue on earth—this is the idea which ought to animate us. The Bengali people are not going to separate after a quarrel—so the ties of affection between

us will remain as strong as ever. Now at last we are fit to sympathise completely with the Biharis. The partition of Bengal is not to anybody else such a matter of life and death, such a deep source of injury as it is to ourselves. But still, now that it is effected, it is more in accordance with Indian training and Indian ideas to accept it calmly and try to find out its good points, so that they may be turned to our improvement.

31. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 28th July writes as follows :— SANDHYA, July 28th, 1905.

What the Bengalis should do now.

The partition is a visitation on us for our want of faith and reliance on God. We must now please Him. Let the whole country constantly ring with prayers offered to Him in manners prescribed by the *Shastras*. Nothing can be achieved without His grace. If you can please Him, He will show you the right path to follow, and it will not be then in the power of the English to oppose you. Every one disregards him who disregards God. But none can thwart him who reveres God. The Almighty is therefore our only shelter in the great calamity which has befallen us.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th July writes as follow under the heading "Who is to blame for the partition ?" :— HITAVADI, July 28th, 1905.

"Who is to blame for the partition ?"

The final decision of the authorities sanctioning the partition has been published. What shall we do now ? The sequel of crying in the wilderness is weeping in silence, and such weeping is our only consolation now. We are degraded and worthless, and so our piteous cries failed to move anybody. We are effiminate braggarts whose only resource lies in words of mouth. Every one, therefore, turned a deaf ear to our sorrowful prayer. To-day with the loss of Dacca, Mymensingh and Rajshahi the best part of the body of Bengal has been lost, only the rump of her mutilated frame remains. We retain one and the same name, but our Government being made different, the prospect of a unity between us is almost lost. We have not yet been able to realise the full agony of the wound we have received, the pain of such a severe wound is only gradually felt. We must now give up all hope of union, regeneration and prosperity. Bengali is going to be separated from Bengali in the same manner as Bengali is separated from the Punjabi. The Bengalis will calmly bear this fate of Bengal. Who can save if the sovereign kills ? A thunderbolt has fallen on our heads, but such would not have been the case if we had been men. We are degenerated creatures, devoid of manliness. That is why Lord Curzon's despotism is flowing on in an uninterrupted course. Would any people who possess strength and manliness have calmly submitted to such a merciless infliction ? We have been representing our sorrow at the feet of our sovereign, using reasoning, arguments, prayers, patriotic considerations, etc. Any other people would have expressed their mental pain by bloodshed. Had it been an arrangement to transfer an English shire to Scotland the King's Ministers would have witnessed the flight of bullets in every house, dynamite and gunpowder would have covered the firmament. We have to suffer calmly because we cannot do such things. The representative of the sovereign does not understand the sorrows of the subject people. To pray to God is therefore the only course now left to them. Any other nation would have even committed the great sin of raising the standard of rebellion. Even this consideration ought to have induced the authorities not to reject the prayer of peace-loving and religiously disposed subjects. What shall we say ? As we have no other course left to us, we must accept our lot with full resignation to the will of God. What other consolation is left to a weak people ?

In fact, even if we had strength, rebellion would not have been the proper path for us under the circumstances. Perhaps we would have committed sin by having recourse to physical force. We are wanting in strength, so that *dharma* has saved us.

It is not the case that we shall have to weep in silence simply because we have become righteous and powerless. Had we not been devoid of all manly virtues, would it have been possible for the authorities to act against our will ? If to-day the Bengalis, the downcast and downtrodden Bengalis, make one purpose not to wear Manchester cloths, hundreds of Lord Curzons cannot divide Bengal against their will. Keep all other English things about you,

only do not use English *dhutis*, and you will see that the boycott of this single article will make the severed head speak and the severed limbs reunite. You can see the result in a few months, if only it becomes difficult to sell English goods on the occasion of the ensuing Durga Puja. If we cannot effect this, where lies our manliness? Our desire will be fulfilled without the necessity of convening meetings, making agitations, submitting petitions or committing the sin of rebellion. But if we cannot do this little thing, why should the authorities mind us?

It will not do to lay the blame on Lord Curzon. The fault is ours. If we do not use the means which is in our power, why should the authorities consider our feelings? We are in the habit of licking the feet of officials whenever we have to serve our petty private purposes, and turning out patriots as opportunities occur. We cannot work unitedly even in a small matter. The authorities know us to be a weak-minded, unsteady, worthless people with uncontrolled tongues. In this state of things, who will hear our words? The remedy is in our own hands. Why should we then blame officials? They cannot be blamed for trampling on us because we ourselves are our enemies.

In this state of things, what else can we do but shed tears in silence? Look at divided Bengal and weep. Bengal has become divided. We seven crores of Bengalis, although speaking one language, have become men of different provinces. No longer shall we all be animated by one and the same spirit to call our mother country by the name of mother. O, that our hearts had burst before we thought of this! O, that the Bay of Bengal had swallowed Bengal before this happened! O, that a volcano had destroyed the Bengali nation! When we cannot adopt the means that is in our own hands, let the History of Bengal be buried into the darkness of oblivion. Fie upon our civilisation, manliness, education and intelligence! We are not fit to be recognised in the society of men.

A cartoon.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th July publishes a cartoon in which one Englishman is represented as a lion-tamer standing with a whip in his hand, another as standing with a ring which he holds up with his hand, and a figure, depicted as a lion with a human face, as leaping over their heads, while a cow cut in two, standing for Bengal, is shown as lying on the ground. The letter-press is as follows:—

The Lion-tamer—
A curse on—Lor'! what is this?
The Lion—roaring—I must not pass through that ring.
A voice from the kitchen—The ring is mine, but
You have both the pieces of the slaughtered Cow.
"You are so precious a cow that in your milk we get heaven itself, as it were, in our hands."

DAILY HITAVADI, July 28th, 1905.

Protest meetings.

34. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th July publishes accounts of meetings held at the following places to protest against the partition of Bengal:—

Pabna.	Bhanga.
Magura.	Faridpur.

DAILY HITAVADI.

The question of the capital of the new province.

35. It is rumoured, says the same paper that Government has expressed its intention not to make Dacca the capital of the new province if the people of the place do not cease protesting against the partition. It is not known whether or not the inhabitants of Dacca will swallow the bait thus offered to them by the authorities. But it must be kept in mind that the authorities care more for the welfare of Assam than that of Dacca. This is clearly shown by the Government Resolution on the partition in which it is proposed to create a new and additional Commissioner-ship in Assam. It is, therefore, quite possible that, as is generally surmised there will be a Chief Court in the new province, after some time, and that its administrative head-quarters also will at the same time be transferred to Shillong. As regards the expenditure that will be necessitated by such transfer, it will be provided by the poor Indians, who are always made to pay for the benefit of the European community. Those who are now rejoicing at the prospect of Dacca becoming the capital of the new province will curse

their fate when they will see its head-quarters transferred to Shillong. Since the transfer of Sylhet to Assam, the land regulations of Assam have been applied to that district in spite of the strong protests of its inhabitants. All Assam laws will in the same manner be extended to Eastern Bengal. There is no guarantee that this will not be the case, because nobody can tell how a future Viceroy may choose to decide the question. There is the further argument that Dacca with its pestilential climate and bad position from a commercial point of view is not fit to become the capital of a province. It is therefore quite possible that ultimately Shillong, or at least Chittagong, will be the capital of the new province.

36. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July writes as follows:— DAILY HITAVADI, July 29th, 1905.

The partition and the Musalman community.

The partition of Bengal will make the Muhammadan element predominating in the new province whilst it will reduce it to a great minority in the old. If the Musalmans had been independent, a chiefly Muhammadan province would have benefited them in many ways. But as circumstances actually exist, the present arrangement will do nothing of the kind. On the contrary it will greatly weaken the position of the Musalman community in Western Bengal, and, in future, enable the authorities to ignore its voice in all public matters. The position of the Hindu community also will be similarly weakened in the new province, so that the partition will weaken both the Hindus and the Musalmans in Bengal by dividing them, and give ample opportunities to officials to indulge in their despotic spirit.

The effect of the partition will be most pernicious on the progress of education in Bengal. It is well-known that the Bengali Musalmans are much backward in education compared with the Bengali Hindus. But the former have become alive to this deficiency on their part and are making great efforts to make it up. This educational movement among the Bengali Musalmans is, however, headed by the Musalmans of Western Bengal. The effect of the partition on the progress of education among the Musalmans in Bengal will therefore be to check it to a great degree by separating the Musalmans of Western Bengal from those of Eastern Bengal. Again, the Musalmans of the new province forming the majority of its inhabitants will naturally aspire to take the lead of its Hindu inhabitants in administrative matters. But the latter being more advanced than the former in education will, of course, be chiefly entrusted with administrative powers in the province. This will serve to create a feeling of animosity between the Hindus and the Musalmans in the province. Those Musalmans who so long held the opinion that they could best serve their community by pleasing the authorities and abstaining from such national assemblies as the Indian National Congress will now see their mistake, because the partition will be more injurious to the interests of Bengali Musalmans than to those of Bengali Hindus. No nation can be great by begging from its rulers. In a country where its rulers are bent on checking the progress of its inhabitants, the people must rise by their own independent efforts.

37. Under the heading "The nature of nations advancing on the path of progress," the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th July writes:— DAILY HITAVADI, July 30th, 1905.

Native feeling disregarded in the partition of Bengal.

Western nations, with their eyes firmly fixed on their goal, are advancing on the path leading to the attainment of that goal with undivided purpose. Anything which comes in their way at such a time will be kicked aside. Because you may have to lose your life, is that any reason why the pleasure of the white-skinned is to remain incomplete? Is the speed of a motor-car to be arrested because a brood of pigs might get run over? that can never be. Recently we stood in the way of our European rulers, and that was why we were kicked aside. The object at which our rulers are aiming requires for its fulfilment the splitting up of Bengal, the creating of differences between Hindus and Musalmans, and the raising up of barriers between the educated and the uneducated. Unless these things are done, the object of our officials cannot be gained, and their work would be left incomplete. This is why Bengal is partitioned, why a brother is separated from the embrace of brother. Partitioning Bengal into two is a small matter. If the officials had thought it necessary they could have cut up Bengal into a hundred fragments. Who can prevent them? If our

rulers had forgot themselves and lost sight of their goal merely in response to the pitiful weepings of a few crores of their black-skinned worthless subjects, who are almost beasts, then they would have become discredited in the eyes of the other Western races. For instance, the Germans, who have set themselves to trample out of existence the race of Herors in Africa like so many insects, would have ridiculed the English as cowardly and femininely weak. Again, the Russian officials who have come to regard the oppression of their subjects as their one duty in this life, and who show the height of their bravery by opening fire on their subjects, while the latter approach them with their tale of grievances, these Russian officials would in that case have begun to despise the English. Are white-skinned officials to make themselves ridiculous before their countrymen and the other European nations at the request of their black-skinned subjects? That can never be. Never mind if the brood of pigs get run over by the passing motor-van; still you must not arrest the speed of your car. For that would mean a spot on your fair fame.

Protest meetings.

38. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August publishes accounts of meetings held at the following places to protest against the partition of Bengal:—

Manikganj.
Narayanganj.
Hindu Hostel, 37 Harrison Road, Calcutta.
E. D. Association Room, Bogra.
Musalman Musjid, Barisal.
Krishnagar.
Zamindar Ashutosh Chaudhuri's house, Gocharar Jhalokati.

DAILY HITAVADI, August 2nd 1905.

The social effect of the partition of Bengal.

39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August says that besides vastly increasing the cost of the administration, the partition will have a really pernicious effect on society in Bengal. People living in or near capital cities imbibe many evils such as luxury, timidity, want of moral courage, etc., from which people living at a distance from large cities are generally free. In large cities money is required for every necessity of life, however insignificant. Their inhabitants are therefore much worse off than remote villagers whose wants are few, and which are easily met. Landlords also have the tendency to fly to large cities and involve themselves in debts by extravagant and luxurious living. The establishment of another capital in Bengal will therefore do a great deal of real harm to the country. The condition of Dacca and its neighbouring places will be as miserable as that of Calcutta and it neighbouring places. The creation of a number of new posts, the establishment of new hospitals, schools, colleges, etc., may seem at first sight to be great gains for the people of Dacca, but they will be nothing compared with the harm that will be done to them by the town being converted into a capital city.

DAILY HITAVADI,

Protest meetings.

40. The same paper gives short accounts of protest meetings held at Berhampore and Malda.

BHARAT MITRA, July 29th, 1905.

The partition of Bengal.

41. Referring to the partition of Bengal, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 29th July says that if the measure has benefited any one, it is the Chief Commissioner of Assam and some other European officers. It means a fresh expenditure of Rs. 3,00,000 a month to the local revenue without doing any good to the people. The general rule is to consider the financial aspect of a measure before it is sanctioned, but Lord Curzon has had his partition scheme sanctioned by the authorities at home first, and now the question of expenditure to meet the scheme is being considered.

BASUMATI, July 29th, 1905.

The partition question.

42. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 29th July writes:—

What was to have been, has been. We might perhaps expend some more effort and money in attempting to pull down the barrier now about to be raised, but will that produce any effect? That no effect will be produced is a fact of which we are well convinced from our past experience of Englishmen. The English are our rulers, they are the conquering race and the stronger party.

We are their subjects, the conquered race and the weaker party. In case of any conflict of interests between us two, how can we maintain our point, or gain our end?

We must admit a hundred times over that we are weak, and that our very life and death depend on the pleasure or displeasure of the English. We are all of us well aware that we have nothing to do against any rules or laws made by the English. But have we no resource at all besides our tears, our petitions and representations, and our alms bowls? It is not possible for any outsider to interfere with the power which we possess over ourselves, the liberty to guide our own lives. The things we eat, the things we wear, and the things we use in every day life are things which if we wish and resolve we may alter or wholly discard. These are matters in which our liberty is still completely unrestricted. The English, though they are our rulers, cannot, whip in hand, thrust on us the compulsory use of Manchester piece-goods, or threaten us with death unless we join in festivities, or subscribe to funds got up by Englishmen. In this day of separation if we can once, on these lines, advance on the path of union, then perhaps we can frustrate the object of Government in effecting this partition. This course is a thousand times better and more enviable than petitions and representations, but it is so difficult to follow it.

The partition of Bengal.

43. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July says that the partition of Bengal has inflicted such a severe wound in the heart of every Bengali as cannot be held by the sort of arguments which Lord Curzon has brought forward in the Government Resolution on the subject. Generation after generation the hearts of Bengalis will feel the pain of this severe infliction. BANGAVASI, July 29th, 1905.

An imaginary conversation on the partition question.

44. The same paper contains the following imaginary conversation purporting to have been contributed by a humourist with the *nom-de-plume* of Khirananda. BANGAVASI,

SURGICAL OPERATION.

Place.—Surgical room in a hospital, time 3 A.M.

Crurjan (Lord Curzon) seated on a chair writing a prescription. Bhanga Ali (the bee of Bengal) lying on a patient's cot looking up at the sky.

Crurjan.—Just conceive my love for you.

Bhanga Ali.—Well, my Lord, I am trying to conceive.

Crur.—I have left my beloved native land and come to a distance of 8,000 miles, and all for you.

Bhanga.—That I see.

Crur.—And I sit up and work till this late hour at night and all for you.

Bhanga.—Don't work so hard any longer, lest you come to my plight.

Crur.—I cannot help working. My heart is troubled for you.

Bhanga.—Then work.

Crur.—As you are becoming humbugs by reading English books I am whispering in your ears ascetic admonitions. You will soon become ascetics and denizens of the forest again.

Bhanga.—I conclude as much.

Crur.—You are a gentle and inoffensive people. Lest you should get weak by keeping up whole nights and hurt your arms in catching thieves, I am entrusting a number of overbold people with police duties.

Bhanga.—You have done well.

Crur.—By holding high appointments you got a little puffed up, and you forget that this world is a mere nothing. To send you therefore a little sooner to Him who is the only reality I am giving a number of white fools the posts which you so long held. While they will be flinging about maddened by the stings of money you shall be blowing trumpets at your ease in heaven.

Bhanga.—I think of realising the scene.

Crur.—Well, realise it then. In the meantime let me finish my despatch.

Bhanga.—My Lord, a despatch at this hour of the night!

Crur.—(Remains silent).

Bhanga.—Boom! Boom! Boom!

Crur.—What is that?

Bhanga.—The roaring of clouds.

Crur.—What have you got to do with that?

Bhanga.—I am simply training my voice.

Crur.—Indeed!

Bhanga.—Boom! Boom!

Crur.—What is that again?

Bhanga.—Japan is throwing eleven-inch balls into Port Arthur.

Crur.—And what is it that you are doing?

Bhanga.—Alas for us! We have got no cannon.

Crur.—That I know. Not to speak of cannon we have not left you even a pen-knife. For you are yet very young and may cut off your finger joints in peeling mangoes.

Bhanga.—That is why I am throwing these newly discovered astral balls into the fort of your love. By persistent cannonade your fort will burst and your long-hoarded, carefully treasured love will flow out like the brains coming out of a cudgelled pate.

Crur.—(Roars).

Bhanga.—Merciful heavens!

Crur.—Why do you cry out?

Bhanga.—My Lord, how sweet is your roaring!

Crur.—Does it sound so sweet? Then sleep for a while. [Writes the despatch.]

Bhanga.—(Trembles).

Crur.—What is this again?

Bhanga.—My Lord, what awful and ominous hush is this silence of yours! My very soul trembles.

Crur.—Is it so? Then you have surely got a boil in your soul.

[Rings the bell repeatedly. Enters Badragi (Mr. Brodrick).]

Brodrick (angrily).—What do you want?

Crurjan.—It is the soul this time.

Badragi.—I do not believe in a soul. Let me strike in the middle, and you, during the short time you are here, try to find out a soul if there be one.

Crur.—Let that be done.

(Rushes in Feruchar (jackal-spy) by which is meant Sir Andrew Fraser).

Feru.—Chloroform him. Chloroform him.

Badragi.—There are no available funds at present.

Crur.—Old man, you don't see that so long as he cries there is nothing to fear. So long as the bee hums, you may be sure he is flitting about. But as soon as he is silent, you may be sure he has his sting thrust into some flower.

(They then went on treating the patient mercifully).

Bhanga.—(Cries and throws about his legs).

Crur.—Fie! fie, my child, you should not roar in this unseemly manner. Look about you and see how all the passages of your body are open without any effort on your part. By sitting up of nights simply for your sake, I have become prematurely old and got "dyspepsia." Your body is troubled with many diseases, and that is why I cast them out without minding your distress. You say you are happy, but I say you are in pain, and that is why I plunge a knife of the manufacture of Rogers into your heart. I see you are comfortable and you complain of pain. Know that I operate on you simply out of love for you. If you die of "successful operation," rejoice exceedingly and cry out "God! God! God!."

Feru.—Look at the right half of your body with your left eye and see how beautiful you look severed in three. Know child, that Darjeeling which you still see at the top is our pleasure abode.

45. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 31st July writes as follows in its English columns:—

Dacca Gazette, July 31st, 1905.

The partition of Bengal.

The Partition of Bengal.

The Resolution of the Government of India on the partition scheme was received in this province with mingled feelings of horror and surprise. That

the Government of India can so far forget itself as to thrust upon the people a measure repugnant to their traditions and revolting to their instincts in the teeth of vehement opposition was what they were not at all prepared to believe. But in this land of surprises it is the unexpected that always happens, and the hallucination under which they laboured so long has now been removed and the Government resolution in all its nakedness is before them all. The Resolutions of Lord Curzon's Government are proverbially elaborate in their character, and the present Resolution on the redistribution of territories forms no exception to the rule. Fallacies and incongruities pervade the whole document. Unlike most other Government Resolutions, it is heavily laden with elaborate discussions on the *pros* and *cons* of this ill-advised measure; but the powder and shot that have been expended have all been simply wasted. The Anglo-Indian contemporaries with one honourable exception—*The Indian Daily News*—have expressed, in distinct and unmistakable terms, their sincere disapprobation of the measure. The *Statesman* has gone the length of attributing sinister motives to the Government in inaugurating a measure most unpopular, most revolting, perhaps most retrograde in its nature. Never in the annals of British Indian administration was introduced a measure which created such wide-spread discontent throughout the land. The reasons assigned for introducing this unpopular measure are all stale, threadbare and hackneyed; and they have failed to satisfy the public. It is no exaggeration to say that they are inconsequential, illogical, inconsistent and self-contradictory. Darjeeling will remain with Bengal "in order to maintain associations which are highly valued in both areas." Good! but are there no associations which are highly valued in the severed districts which ought to be maintained? How the associations of a handful of Europeans are considered more sacred than the time-honoured associations of millions of people, one is at a loss to understand. This one argument for the retention of Darjeeling as a part of the old province speaks volumes against this ruthless separation of the Eastern and Northern districts of Bengal from the mother province; but we have fallen on evil days, and the Government appears to turn a deaf ear to all our prayers and supplications however fair and reasonable they may be. Much has been made of the "linguistic considerations" when directed to the incorporation into Bengal of a portion of the Sambhalpur District and the Uriya-speaking States of Kalahandi, Sonepur, etc., of the Central Provinces. But alas! these sacred and much-made of considerations were totally ignored when levelled against the homogeneity of the Bengali-speaking race which had been gradually developing itself into a mighty nation connected by ties of language and matrimony, too sacred now to be severed. The Governor-General in Council "is fully aware of the opposition which these proposals have encountered, and has no desire to undervalue the sentiments upon which it has been based. Ties of mutual association grow up so quickly and become so closely interlaced that territorial redistribution can rarely be accomplished except at the cost of a disruption which is often painful and generally unpopular. On the other hand, when old connections are severed, new ones almostly immediately take their place, growing with a rapidity that in a very short time is found to invest them with a sanctity scarcely inferior to that of the associations which they have superseded." We cannot too highly admire His Excellency in Council for the frankness and candour with which the above lines were penned. They have removed a very heavy misgiving under which we have been labouring so long that the Government are loath to accept all our agitations in connection with the partition scheme as genuine. We are really grateful to His Excellency for his kind sympathy for the people whom it pleased Providence to place under his care. The arguments in connection with the influence of new associations are curious indeed, and it is a pity that they have been taken recourse to in the solution of such a life-and-death question. Change is the order of nature, and to all changes where opposition is naturally and constitutionally impossible one must submit. The hand, for instance, of a man may be suddenly lopped off, and to this change of circumstance he must submit inasmuch as opposition is constitutionally unwarrantable. But in this territorial redistribution the several provinces connected perhaps in adamantine chain have been, we are sorry to say, kicked off like so many foot-balls to encounter a fate for which they are not

constitutionally prepared. That our *ma-bap* Government, traditionally unaccustomed to measures expected only of a despotic Government, can so cruelly ignore feelings and sentiments of such a loyal and law-abiding people as ourselves is more than what we can dream of.

PRATIJNA, August 2nd, 1905.

46. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August writes with reference to the partition scheme :—

The partition question.

The terrible pang we now feel at this separation will continue to be discussed without intermission for all time among our unfortunate countrymen. India has lost all. The nation which has no political independence is an inert mass, completely bereft of sensibility.

Why is the once irresistible might of Carthage now sunk in the unfathomable depths of the Mediterranean Sea? For what sin is Rome, once the birthplace of innumerable heroes and in the enjoyment of unlimited happiness and prosperity now shorn of her glories? Do you know for what fault fair Athens, once without a peer for beauty among the cities of the earth was trampled under foot? Nothing on earth continues in the same state for all time. The Indraprastha of Judisthir is now no more. Where is the Madrid which was once the pride of Spain? Nothing is immutable on earth. Nothing is impracticable of realisation in life. Have you heard of the immortal chapter of fame which has been added to Indian History by the poor Sivaji making a stand against the all-powerful Mogul Emperor of the day? You know everything, you have seen everything, have read of everything, but what have you done for mother India? How little the thought you have given to India's sons! What is it that you have sacrificed for your countrymen?

PRATIJNA.

47. The same paper has the following :—

Magura and the partition question.

Praise to Magura!!! A thousand times with a thousand voices, in thousands of crores of societies we shall sing repeated praises to Magura. The partition of Bengal has been the cause of many meetings in many places at which resolutions have been passed and memorials drawn up. But the annals of Bengal will record for all time in letters of gold what the inhabitants of Magura have recently done in this connexion. A meeting was held at this place on the 23rd July last which attracted a monster crowd and was attended by all the eminent men of the locality. This meeting adopted a resolution to this effect: that as the Government is acting on this question in opposition to the public opinion, so on our part we shall not join in any festivities in connection with the forthcoming Royal visit, nor shall we pay a penny's worth of subscription for His Royal Highness's reception. The day of this Magura meeting, the 23rd July 1905, will remain memorable for ever in India. The down-trodden Bengali race has this day taken one step forward in the paths leading to national independence. On bended knees we pray to God that soon in every village in Bengal be witnessed such acts betokening independence of spirit. Really how can we with smiling face welcome the Prince, wounded as we are by the mortal shaft of the partition of our fatherland? To the Indian with his loin-cloth constituting all his earthly goods, the flow of blood from his wounded heart is the choicest thing to welcome his Prince with.

MURSHIDABAD HITAISHI, July 26th, 1905.

48. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 26th July writes:—

A suggested change of thana jurisdiction in Murshidabad.

It is rumoured that it is in contemplation to remove the Raninagar, Goas and Daulatabad thanas from the jurisdiction of the Berhampur Sadar to that of the Lalbagh subdivision. The Sadar Subdivision would in that case be left simply with the Sujaganj, Gorabazar, Barua, Hariharpara, Nowda and Jalangi thanas. To deal with the work of these few thanas there will be the large number of judicial officers who are stationed at the Sadar. The inhabitants of the thanas of Raninagar and Daulatabad would prefer the existing jurisdiction of the Sadar to the suggested one of Lalbagh. With the opening of the railway, Lalbagh has come within almost five minutes' journey of Berhampur. The subdivision of Lalbagh may therefore be abolished and a new one opened at Bhagwangola or some place in its neighbourhood.

49. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th July writes as follows:— SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, July 27th, 1905.

The question of Lord Curzon's resignation.

Lady Curzon's illness and her wonderful recovery from it were signs by which Providence pointed out to Lord Curzon the effect of wounding men's feelings and the necessity of having faith in God. But the voice of God failed to reach His Excellency's ears and draw his mind heavenward. Driven by vanity and the lust of power and high position he returned to India, although he knew full well that the Indians did not like him. The Indians are loyal subjects, but they have no respect for Viceroys like Lord Curzon. The sense of self-respect alone should, therefore, have prevented him from resuming the charge of the Indian Viceroyalty. But the desire of accomplishing a great work like the partition of Bengal outweighed all other considerations and brought him back to India. The manner however in which he has been discomfited in the Indian Army administration question may make even the commonest man think himself more happy than Lord Curzon. In a speech which he recently delivered at Simla, His Excellency tried to make the best of the situation, and boasted that all the modifications to the new Army administration scheme which he had urged upon the Secretary of State for India had been accepted by the latter. But this attempt on his part to retrieve his lost reputation proved futile, and even his best friends are now advising him to resign. He is rich and has not to depend on service for livelihood. As for the dignity of the post he holds, he had done nothing which can enhance it, but, has on the contrary, done much which will only serve to impair it. He should, therefore, make no delay in resigning the Viceroyalty, but that he is never going to do. The Simla speech referred to above has evoked severe criticism in Parliament. and it is rumoured that Lord Curzon has expressed his determination to resign if Mr. Brodrick should make any disparaging remarks in the House regarding him in the matter. What resignation! resigning the Viceroyalty of India, a post which has not its equal in the whole world and before which all considerations of honour and prestige shrink into insignificance! Why should Lord Curzon resign such a precious situation! The Prince of Wales is coming to India, and once again will Lord Curzon ride on the elephant's back, see *tamashas*, receive *salams* from nobles and princes, and salutes from thousands of soldiers, and have gorgeous processions to follow him. What is honour and self respect to a man who will enjoy so much, so much that is worthy of a Moghul Nawab? Has Mr. Brodrick no pity in his heart? This time surely he will not be hard on His Excellency. But even if he be hard His Excellency knows how to pocket the insult and remain firm in his post.

50. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th July writes as follows:— HITAVADI, July 28th, 1905.

Lord Curzon and the Army administration question.

Lord Curzon himself is mainly responsible for the bad position in which he now finds himself in the Indian Army administration question. He ought to have resigned when Mr. Brodrick rudely rejected his views and accepted those of Lord Kitchener. By doing so, he would have raised himself in the estimation of both his friends and foes, and would most probably have compelled Mr. Brodrick to relent a little. But Lord Curzon did not dare to do that. Great men try to save their honour at the expense of everything they possess, even their lives. But Lord Curzon has sacrificed his honour, self-respect, position, etc., for the sake of service. Why should he not then be ridiculed? Whatever he may say, people have understood what his position has been in the matter.

51. Commenting upon the recent controversy between Lord Kitchener and Lord Curzon regarding Army administration and the Secretary of State's orders thereon, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th July makes the following observations:— HITAVARTA, July 30th, 1905.

Lord Curzon.

Is he the same Lord Curzon who abused and ridiculed the Indians in his Convocation speech and insulted Mr. Gokhale in the Legislative Council who has now been humiliated. Where is his pride now? We have heard you denouncing such "oriental diplomacy," but we ask now under what policy you have now been forced to give up your vanity and accept this insult to crown your head. The fact is that the modifications made by the Secretary of State

in Lord Kitchener's scheme at the instance of Lord Curzon are of no importance. While the scheme of Lord Kitchener was b ing discussed, a whisper came to our ears from Simla that His Excellency would resign his office, if his recommendations are not acted upon. We thought at the time that it was as could be expected from the representative of the sovereign; but the result of all this fretting, foaming and heating the air has come to nothing. When his political opponents attacked him from all sides, we found him to be an empty talker. All his greatness lies in abusing the weak, downtrodden, dumb people of India, but outside that country has hardly any value. The statesmanship displayed at the Delhi Darbar which grew in strength at the passing of the Universities and Official Secrets Acts, and attained its zenith at the dividing of Bengal is to disappear just after the Royal visit to India and the construction of Victoria Memorial Hall. But the Indians will never forget the name of Lord Curzon. The red hot poker of his administrative measures have branded his name on the hearts of the Indians so that it will never be obliterated. The pronouncement of his very name will fill the eyes of the Indians with tears. Ah! talkative Curzon, when you set foot in India, the people hoped to be benefited by your rule, so deceived were they by your sweet words. Who ever thought at the time that underneath your sleeve was a butcher's knife?

BANGAVASI, July 29th, 1905.

Agricultural Reports in Bengal.

52. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July says that as the Reports which are annually published from the experimental farms in Bengal appear in English, the cultivators of the country derive little or no benefit from them. Government also does not appear to make much profit from the farms. It is therefore altogether useless to spend large sums of money every year on them. Money thus spent can be much more usefully employed in helping poor cultivators to buy seeds, etc. In America official reports on agriculture are freely distributed among its inhabitants. Cannot such reports in Bengal be translated into Bengali and freely distributed also?

HITAVARTA, July 30th, 1905.

Jagdeo Sahay's case.

53. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 30th July notices the case of Jagdeo Sahay, a clerk in the Magistrate's Court of Motihari, as reported by a correspondent of that paper. The local Collector forced the above clerk to pay to an indigo planter Rs. 150 in respect of a bond on which the planter failed to obtain a decree in the Civil Court. The Lieutenant-Governor's attention is invited to the case.

DACCA PRAKAS, July 30th, 1905.

Mr. J. T. Rankin, Magistrate of Dacca.

54. In view of the approaching departure from Dacca of Mr. J. T. Rankin, the local Collector, under orders of transfer to the office of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Calcutta, the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 30th July appears with a portrait of this officer on special art paper with borders of gold, with the following verses underneath, also in letters of gold:—

May every joy from Heaven be thine,
As fast the seasons roll;
May Providence look on benign,
To cheer your heart and soul.
Exempt from every woe and care,
May all be bright and passing fair.

A long and highly appreciative article is also published, in the course of which reference is made to the sway which Mr. Rankin has established over the hearts of the people of the district by the mildness, sweetness, benevolence and sympathy of his character, and the consequent regret with which his departure from among their midst is viewed after a term of office approaching almost to seven years.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVARTA, July 30th, 1905.

Mr. R. C. Dutt, on Baroda.

55. The *Hita Varta* [Calcutta] of the 30th July learns that the Government of India asked the Gaekwar of Baroda to explain the apppointment of Mr. R. C. Dutt in that Esate without first obtaining the permission of the Government. The reply received has however silenced the Government; since Mr. Dutt has been appointed as a Member of the Council only and not a Minister, but they have

issued a secret circular order by which the Native States have been forbidden to appoint any retired Civilian to any post in those States. We have been quite stupified at the spirit in which the circular has been written. It is a gross injustice to interfere with the liberty of the Native States in this way.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

56. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th July writes as follows:— Hitavadi, July 28th, 1905.

Lord Curzon's illness.

Every Indian will, no doubt, be sorry at the news of Lord Curzon's illness. No one will rejoice at it on the ground that His Excellency has done immense harm to India. What the Indians pray for is that he should leave them with a sound body. It is hoped that he will soon recover.

57. While sorry for Lord Curzon's illness, the *Hita Varta* [Calcutta] of the 30th July says that in spite of the fact that the various measures adopted by Lord Curzon have cut at the root of all hopes for our future progress we cannot be happy to hear of his illness. Our prayer however is that he may leave; and soon allow us breathing time. It is to be hoped that he will soon recover from the illness. Hita Varta, July 30th, 1905.

Lord Curzon's illness.

58. Referring to the Kharagpur and Saran outrage cases, the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 29th July writes as follows:— Ratnakar, July 29th, 1905.

Justice and truth among Englishmen.

Englishmen are in the habit of boasting that truth and justice occupy a higher place in their society than in that of any other nation on earth. But no one who has a knowledge of English character need be told of the worthlessness of this self-laudation on the part of Englishmen. It may be asked, do not the English honour justice and speak truth? In answer to this it may be said that the English may sometimes be just and truthful, but they have no right to boast on that account, because they do not shrink from trampling on both justice and truth when their self-interest is at stake. One need not go far in seeking for a justification of this statement. History will tell one how far the English honoured justice and truth at the time of their conquering India.

Uriya Papers.

59. A correspondent of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 19th July states that though Uriya is spoken in the Feudatory States of Gangpur and Banai in the Chota Nagpur Division, the Court language in those States is Kaithi Hindi, which causes great inconvenience and trouble to the people concerned. The writer suggests that the Chiefs and Dewans of those States should move the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division praying for the introduction of Uriya as their Court language, and hopes that the Commissioner will see his way to grant the prayer by following the example of the Governments of Madras and the Central Provinces who have made Uriya the language of the Courts in Ganjam and Sambalpur respectively. Uriya and Navasamvad, July 19th, 1905.

The Court language in Gangpur and Banai.

60. The same paper mourns the death of Mr. Nilkantha Sing, caused by the sudden fall of a dilapidated masonry wall in the Gangamandir tank adjacent to the Cuttack Civil Court compound. Mr. Sing accompanied the expeditions to China and Tibet as a signaller and had earned a reward of Rs. 500 for his meritorious services in those expeditions. The Cuttack Municipality should have removed this dangerous wall long before the accident. Uriya and Navasamvad.

The death of Mr. Nilkantha Sing.

61. The same paper mourns the death of Babu Banamali Mahapatra, son of Babu Kesub Chandra Mahapatra, late teacher of the Cuttack Medical School, who, while swimming, was drowned in the Kathjuri river. The writer warns the guardians of boys in Cuttack to keep a strict watch over their charges in the flood season. Uriya and Navasamvad.

A drowning case in Cuttack.

62. Referring to the recent visit of the Hon'ble Mr. Savage and Mr. Growse to Balasore in connection with the working of the new panchayet unions as well as that in connection with the maintenance of records, the same paper observes that the new system of chaukidari union, though good in principle, has been a fruitful source of high-handed oppression and abuse of power, perpetrated by Uriya and Navasamvad.

Chaukidari unions.

the panchayet members, who, unfortunately, are not good men. This was mainly due to a bad selection of men. The writer has come to know of a particular case of such oppression in the Khaira outpost in the Soro Thana, which is under the investigation of the authorities.

Uriya and Navasamvad, July 19th, 1905.

The question of keeping records.

63. Referring to the maintenance of records and to the proposed meeting of the leading zamindars in the Balasore district and the Hon'ble Mr. Savage and Mr. Growse in a Conference, the same paper, while sympathising with the object of the Conference, suggests that the authorities should also look to the interest of the landlords and thereby prevent serious misunderstandings and costly litigations between the zamindars and their tenants. The Conference should try to bridge over the differences between the two landed interests.

Uriya and Navasamvad.

The rainfall.

64. The same paper states that there were rains in the last week and that agricultural operations are proceeding briskly.

Samvad Vahika, July 20th, 1905.

The rainfall in Balasore.

65. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 20th July says that the rainfall is not uniform in the Balasore district, and that the Basta and Baliapal thanas and the Remuna outpost are suffering from insufficient rain.

Samvad Vahika,

The last Rath Jathra festival at Puri.

66. The same paper estimates the number of pilgrims and visitors present at Puri during the Ulta Rath festival at about 80,000.

Garjatbasini, July 22nd, 1905.

The Raja of Talcher's contribution to the Earthquake Relief Fund.

67. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 22nd July speaks highly of the Raja of Talcher's contribution of Rs. 700 to the Kangra Earthquake Relief Fund.

Garjatbasini.

The Military Police force in Angul.

68. The same paper thanks the District Superintemnent of Police, Angul, for his proposal to enlist only Garjati men in the new Military Police force that is to be shortly organised in that district.

Garjatbasini.

Moral teaching in schools in Orissa.

69. The same paper strongly advocates the introduction of moral teaching into the curriculum of schools in Orissa.

Garjatbasini.

The Raja of Kanika's reward to a *tol*.

70. The same paper approves of the resolution of the Raja of Kanika to reward the successful students of the Padmanabh *tol* at Ganja and their teacher and to award a scholarship to a deserving candidate intending to read there, and hopes that the example of the Raja will be followed by other wealthy men in the Division.

Garjatbasini.

A model farm in Talcher.

71. The same paper approves of the foundation of a model farm in Talcher by the Raja of that State, where an attempt is being made to teach improved methods of agriculture and cultivation of new crops to the people. Already the outturn of gram and wheat has proved hopeful.

Garjatbashini.

The rainfall in Athgurh.

72. The Athgurh correspondent of the same paper writes to say, that as there was continous rainfall in Athgurh for two consecutive days about the end of the last month, the people could not go out, and many poor people had to starve. They were, however, relieved by the charity of the Raja of that State, who contributed Rs. 100 towards their necessities and requirements.

Garjatbashini.

Sale of unwholesome food-stuff in Talcher.

73. The same paper says that the Raja of Talcher has interdicted the sale of rotten fish, dry fish, oiled-cakes, wet rice and other unhealthy substances in the Talcher bazar in the interests of sanitation. This is as it should be for, Talcher generally keeps poor health in the rainy season.

Garjatbasini,

The rainfall in Barapali.

74. The Barapali correspondent of the same paper writes to say that though there is no want of rain in that place, yet more rain is required by the cultivators for carrying on their field operations successfully.

Star of Utkal, July 22nd, 1905.

The Madras Land Estates Bill.

75. The *Star of Utkal* [Cuttack] of the 22nd July states that the Land Estates Bill of Madras is decidedly dangerous to the prestige and property of zamindars, that the Government of Madras is resolved to pass the Bill in the teeth of all opposition,

and that the cries of the Madras Landholders' Association go for nothing owing to the lamentable want of public spirit in the Madras Presidency, and suggests that Bengal Landholders should come forward to assist their Madrasi brethren for, soon after Madras, Bengal will be required to submit to a similar law.

STAR OF UTKAL, July 22nd, 1905.

Municipal taxation in Cuttack.

76. Referring to the increase in Municipal and latrine taxes in Cuttack, the same paper states that the Municipal Commissioners appear to be afraid of local authorities, who are in favour of such increase, because if they dare go against their wishes Local Self-Government will be knocked on the head. The Municipal Commissioners do not, therefore, take serious notice of the wrong valuations made by the Assessor. The Assessor is said to have followed no standard in his assessment and to have not seen all the houses that he has assessed. The Municipal administration of the Cuttack town has therefore produced deep dissatisfaction. The Municipal Commissioners are therefore urged to resign, for thereby they will be able to preserve their independence.

STAR OF UTKAL.

Municipal appeals in Cuttack.

77. Referring to the same subject, the same paper observes that the Appeal Committee is acting illegally, for it does not hear evidence before deciding the objections of the appellants. The writer advises the Municipality to appoint more Appeal Committees to hear the objections that are numerous, and thereby follow the precedents of past assessments.

UTKALDIPIKA, July 22nd, 1905.

Municipal taxation in Cuttack.

78. Referring to the same subject the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 22nd July states that the unjust increase of taxation is creating wide-spread discontent among the residents of Cuttack. The summary and hasty procedure of the Appeal Committee is adding to the spread of that discontent. This increase of taxation is the most important topic of conversation all around Cuttack. In fact it has absorbed all the attention of the Katki resident. The appointment of a Government officer, who is under the influence of the Municipal Chairman and the District Magistrate, to conduct the municipal assessment is strongly criticised. The appointment of one Appeal Committee to hear all the objections is unfavourably commented upon. The continual presence of the Chairman in the Appeal Committee, always aided by the Assessor, adds to the difficulties of the appellants, who are not permitted to tender evidence and who are silenced by curt and short replies. The Appeal Committee express the greatest reluctance to reduce a tax, when there is ground for so doing, simply because the Assessor is unwilling to assent to the same. Thus the Assessor is an important personage in the Appeal Court. The Chairman is advised to absent himself from the Appeal Committee, for he does not, on the one hand, show proper respect for the opinions of his colleagues, and does, on the other, show too much respect for the opinions of his Assessor, who is a Government servant and is therefore interested in securing his promotion by showing a good increase in taxes, whereby his superiors will be pleased. In cases where the Chairman and his colleagues differ, the benefit of doubt is not given to the appellants, and the casting vote, which the Chairman possesses is so utilized as to secure a clear majority for the Assessor. In doubtful cases no adjournments are granted, and the Chairman pushes on through his work with as much speed as practicable, thereby frustrating the ends of justice. Sometimes the members of the Appeal Committee are not allowed to speak out their opinions. Thus the action of the Chairman, who was elected by the ratepayers, injures their interests on the one hand and lowers the prestige of Local Self-Government on the other.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The rainfall in Cuttack.

79. The same paper states that rain fell at times in the last week in the Cuttack town as well as in the interior of that district, but the quantity of rain-water was so small as to be of very little help to the cultivators in their agricultural operations.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The rainfall.

80. The Jagatsingpur correspondent of the same paper states that there has been sufficient rainfall in that part of the Cuttack district, but that the paddy plants being small, transplantation work has not commenced.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Scarcity of rainfall.

81. The same paper complains that the monsoon rains have not yet set in, and that the paucity of rain-water is felt in the greater part of the country.

UTKALDIPIKA, July 22nd, 1905.

82. The same paper approves of the appointment of Mr. Mohini Mohan Dhur, the late State Judge of Mayurbhanj, as Dewan of that State, and hopes that consequent changes in the offices of the Maharaja will admit of the appointment of a few Uriyas into the services of that State.

The Dewan of the Mayurbhanj State.

UTKALDIPIKA.

83. The same paper is glad to announce that Mr. B. N. Dey of Midnapur, who is prosecuting his studies in St. John's College, Cambridge, stood first in Mathematics in the second examination held in that college and has obtained a scholarship of £80. The writer hopes that this will correct the mistake of those who think that the Indians are not competent enough to hold trustworthy posts in the public service of their own country.

A Bengali student at Cambridge.

UTKALDIPIKA.

84. Referring to the mischievous practice of throwing stones into the houses of some gentlemen at Cuttack, as reported last week, the same paper is sorry to find that though a chaukidar, who was implicated in the affair, was sentenced to six weeks' rigorous imprisonment, the malpractice still continues, and that the town police does not take any step to prevent it.

The throwing of stones into some houses in Cuttack.

UTKALDIPIKA.

85. The same paper draws the attention of His Excellency the Governor of Madras to the fact that the promising Uriya graduates of Ganjam find it difficult to rise in the service of that Province by breaking through the Telegu phalanx that generally guards the door of public patronage, and hopes that His Excellency will do something in the matter.

Public service in Madras and the Uriya graduates of Ganjam.

UTKALDIPIKA.

86. The same paper compares the roads of Balasore, Puri and Cuttack, and draws the attention of the District Board of the last district to the fact that its *kutcha* and *pucka* roads are inferior to those of the other two districts, and that a large amount should be spent on the improvement of those roads.

Bad roads in the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPIKA.

87. The same paper draws the attention of the District Magistrate of Cuttack and the Commissioner of the Orissa Division to the conduct of the Inspector of Police, Kendrapara, and his subordinates, as described in the judgements of the District Judge in certain criminal cases that came before him for revision, from which extracts are given in the paper. It appears that the Police of Kendrapara have been trying to bring Mr. Makbul Ali, the Sub-Registrar, who is also an Honorary Magistrate and the Municipal Vice-Chairman, to grief and trouble by making him implicated in criminal cases and by creating evidence against him. The writer hopes that the District and Divisional authorities will take early steps to free the gentry of the Kendrapara station from the terror of police rule.

The Kendrapara police.

UTKALDIPIKA.

88. The same paper states that the sudden introduction of the electric wire into the compound of the temple of Jagannath in Puri by the Manager created such dissatisfaction and discontent among the servants of the temple and the members of the orthodox Hindu community in that sacred city that the Manager was compelled to give up the undertaking, pending the decision of a representative meeting, which is proposed to take place a few weeks after. The writer is of opinion that the leading members of the Hindu community should be consulted before the introduction of a foreign light into the sacred temple of god Jagannath. The temple finances are not in a flourishing condition, and if there is any surplus it should be first devoted to the repairs of many ancient relics in the compound of the temple that are almost in ruins. The electric light is a costly article, and it should not be introduced against the opposition of men upon whose loyalty and devotion depend the success and stability of the temple administration. Its contemporary of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* gives similar advice.

The question of lighting the Puri temple by electricity.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 5th August, 1905.

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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 5th August 1905.

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Nil.

I.—Foreign Politics.

982. The *Bengalee* writes that if the sentiments expressed by M. de Witte faithfully reflect Russian public opinion on the subject of peace, then the Japanese Plenipotentiaries may return home without any further waste of energy and time. Holding such views, Russia should never have entered into the peace negotiations, and it may fairly be presumed that the United States would never forgive her if she backed out at this advanced stage. The journal suspects that M. de Witte's statement is meant as a warning to Japan that her demands will meet with opposition. Japan, however, is not easily deceived, and it is noticeable that she has not permitted the peace negotiations to interfere with the forward movement of her troops in Manchuria or the conquest of Saghalien.

Russian bluff.

Bengalee, 5th Aug. 1905.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—*Police.*

983. The *Hindoo Patriot* denounces the practice of scorching on the part of motorists, which is responsible for the increase in the number of serious accidents. Although there are regulations to control the speed at which cars are to be driven, they are usually disregarded, and even the police are unable to enforce them. The only solution appears to the journal to lie with the Courts. When a motorist usually a European, is prosecuted, he should not, as now, be let off a with small fine, which he quickly pays and forgets, but the sentence should be of a deterrent character, and for breaking the rules a second time, the license of the offender should be withdrawn. At all events, a more effective check upon motorists is urgently called for.

Motor-car accidents.

Hindoo Patriot, 29th July 1905.

984. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Barisal correspondent writes that the bad characters in the neighbourhood of Kushangal are a source of great terror and oppression to the poor villagers. Their nefarious practices reached the ears of the local authorities and an Assistant Superintendent of Police and some reserve constables proceeded to the village, but failed to bring the offenders to book. After much trouble, however, about 20 of their number were captured and tried on various charges of house-breaking, outraging female modesty, extorting money, etc., and sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment each.

Lawlessness in Kushangal.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 2nd Aug. 1905.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

985. The *Hindoo Patriot* adverts to the Coroner's inquest on the body of a Bengali lady who was found dead, apparently from hanging. The Police Surgeon found that the woman had taken opium before hanging herself, yet the verdict returned was suicide by hanging. It should have been ascertained whether the opium was self-administered or not, and what the Chemical Examiner, if consulted on the contents of the stomach, had to say. The enquiry appears to have been conducted in a very slipshod manner, and an explanation is needed from the Police Surgeon of his statement regarding the opium.

A Coroner's inquest.

Hindoo Patriot, 29th July 1905.

986. The *Indian Empire* writes that the failure of justice in recent railway outrage cases has created such consternation in the public mind that it is urgently necessary for the Government to move in the matter. In the Chapra case the accused Isaac was discharged for want of sufficient evidence, although he had been identified by the complainant and her three witnesses immediately after the occurrence. In the Khargpur outrage case the Sessions Judge, differing from the assessors, acquitted the accused, as he was of opinion that the charge of rape brought against the accused Carroll was false. The journal asks His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to send for the records of these cases and see that justice is meted out to the offenders.

Railway outrage cases.

Indian Empire, 1st Aug. 1905.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 2nd Aug. 1905.

The Mymensingh slander case.

987. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, holds that, if in depreciating Miss Mell to Mr. Delevingne, Mr. Lee's motive was not to harm the former but to serve a brother officer. This is quite plain, and Mr. Justice Stephen admits that the accused's conduct was free from all malice, yet he has sentenced him to a fine of Rs. 12,500! The personal treatment accorded to Mr. Lee at the trial and countenanced by Mr. Justice Stephen, is also severely commented upon.

(d)—Education.

NEW INDIA, 29th July 1905.

The office of Director of Public Instruction.

988. *New India* writes that the appointment of a Civilian to the post of Director of Public Instruction is a departure from a practice that has worked well in the past, and deprives the officers of the Educational Department of the only prize appointment that was open to them. It is not unlikely, however, that the Subordinate Service will favour this innovation, as it will probably destroy the old traditions, in accordance with which their promotions, etc., were more or less dependent on the clerical staff of the Director's office.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

INDIAN MIRROR, 23rd July 1905.

Protest against the establishment of a slaughter-house in a Hindu quarter.

989. The *Indian Mirror* writes that the Hindu residents of Ward No. 25 have submitted a petition to the Chairman of the Corporation protesting against the proposal to establish a slaughter-house at No. 33, Kootree Road, Kidderpur, which is in the very heart of the Hindu quarter of the town. This thoughtless and inconsiderate arrangement cannot but wound and outrage the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus, and is it earnestly hoped that the Chairman will not sanction it.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 31st July 1905.

The Calcutta improvement scheme.

990. The *Hindoo Patriot* characterises the city improvement scheme as somewhat gigantic and a little too extravagant considering the economic condition of the inhabitants. The expenditure on roads will amount to much more than the 500 lakhs estimated, as the proposed 15 miles of new roads will not pass through important places such as Harrison Road does and the prices of the surplus lands will not be as high as they were in the case of Harrison Road. The journal would rather dispense with one or two of these expensive roads instead of reducing the number of open spaces, as it is proposed to do if funds are not available, and suggests that the Government should introduce the levying of toll on all conveyances passing through the new roads. The burden of taxation will thus fall on all those taking advantage of the roads, and not only on the owners of such houses as abut on these roads.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 5th Aug. 1905.

Acquisition of land at Nawpara.

991. A correspondent writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that 200 bighas of land contiguous to the trenching grounds at Nawpara are going to be acquired at a cost of Rs. 45,000. The writer points out that this land consists entirely of paddy fields, which are the only means of livelihood for the villagers around Nawpara, and if they are deprived of it, it will involve a severe hardship upon them. Again, trenching grounds have become so many public nuisances, and since land is available near the Salt-Water Lakes, why is it not acquired for the purpose there? The writer draws the attention of the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas and the Commissioner of the Presidency Division to this matter.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

BENGALEE, 2rd Aug. 1905.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

992. A correspondent writes to the *Bengalee* complaining that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company have added to the grievances of the travelling public by doing away with the up train that leaves Howrah for Ramrajatolah at 5-54 P.M. This is a most convenient passenger train, especially for those whose places of business close at 5 P.M., and its discontinuance will be keenly felt. The writer asks the authorities to reconsider their decision and also to provide an additional train at about 6-50 P.M. for the convenience of those whose offices close later.

993. The *Bengalee* is surprised that at a time, when encouraged by the decisions of the law Courts outrages on Indian women have become so frequent, the East Indian Railway authorities have not thought fit to discontinue the practice of placing the compartment reserved for Europeans immediately next to the intermediate class female compartment. Such an arrangement will have the effect of scaring away intending passengers, who would rather forego their journey than travel long distances in such close proximity to people whom they hold in awful dread. The journal appeals to the Agent to cancel this arrangement and place female compartments as far as possible from those occupied by Europeans.

Female compartments on the East Indian Railway.

BENGALEE, 5th Aug. 1905.

(*h*)—*General.*

994. The *Indian Mirror* writes that it is in the hour of adversity that the best qualities of a nation shine forth, and there are indications on every side that the Bengalis are not going to belie the general rule, but struggle manfully against the partitioning of their province. Whatever might have been Lord Curzon's object in taking this step in the teeth of the keenest opposition, the result has been to unite the people more closely and to strengthen their powers of resistance. These are the small beginnings of a great revolution, and they have sprung from seething discontent brought about by an unnecessary measure to divide an unoffending people.

The Partition Scheme.

INDIAN MIRROR, 29th July 1905.

995. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that when he was in India, Sir Walter Lawrence exercised a salutary control over Lord Curzon's impulsive actions, because his great desire was to see his chief set down as a popular ruler. Since the departure of his good angel, however, Lord Curzon has been developing himself into a Czar, and his greatest achievement as a despotic ruler is indisputably the partition of Bengal, despite the earnest entreaties and protests of the nation.

Ibid.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 1st Aug. 1905.

996. The *Bengalee* is indignant that the District Magistrate should have asked the grief-stricken people of Mymensingh to subscribe to the Kangra Valley Relief Fund and is of opinion that he was very rightly told that nothing could be expected from them. As a further proof of popular opposition towards the partition, the *Bengalee* writes that efforts are being made to boycott foreign manufactures, and there is every reason to hope that these efforts will be attended with unprecedented success.

Ibid.

BENGALEE, 2nd Aug. 1905.

997. How deeply the feelings of the people have been stirred by the ruthless partition of their province, writes the *Bengalee*, may be gathered from the fact that religious ceremonies are being held in several districts in order that the impending calamity may be averted. They have further decided to boycott foreign manufactures, as this will not only touch the pockets of the British public and thus draw their attention to Indian affairs, but will also have the immense advantage of advancing the local industries.

Ibid.

BENGALEE, 2nd Aug. 1905.

998. The *Indian Mirror* writes that now that the scheme for the partition of Bengal has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, an earnest endeavour is probably being made by interested officials to create a division in the opposition camp, otherwise it is difficult to account for the platitudes indulged in by the *East* regarding the benefits that the partition will confer on the people of Dacca. The *Mirror* reminds its contemporary of the national interests it has been called upon to serve at this crisis, and cautions it against playing into the hands of designing officials and their creatures.

Ibid.

INDIAN MIRROR, 2nd Aug. 1905.

999. The *Telegraph's* correspondent writes that the Rajshahi Association are taking steps to organise meetings for the purpose of submitting a memorial to the House of Commons protesting against the partition scheme. The writer adds that the people are in a state of great discontent, which has been heightened by the scant respect paid to their wishes.

Ibid.

TELEGRAPH, 4th Aug. 1905.

BENGALEE, 4th Aug. 1905.

The Partition Scheme.

1000. The Dacca correspondent of the *Bengalee* writes that it is impossible to adequately describe the feelings of the people, who have been completely overawed by the partition. The prospect of a new province with Mr. Fuller at its head and Mr. Savage as the Senior Member of the Board is anything but attractive, and this, together with the ultimate creation of a Chief Court, has raised the public temper to a high pitch.

BENGALEE, 4th Aug. 1905.

East and the Partition Scheme.

1001. A correspondent writing to the same journal says that the *East* of Dacca which was once a whole-hearted adversary of the partition scheme, now masquerades in the *rôle* of a staunch supporter of the scheme and ardent partisan of Lord Curzon. The change, the writer suspects, is due to self-interest, as the Editor wants his son, at present a clerk to Mr. Savage, to be appointed as a Sub-Deputy Magistrate!

HINDOO PATRIOT, 29th July 1905.

The Plague Committee.

1002. The *Hindoo Patriot* is gratified to notice that the Indian plague has attracted the attention of the House of Commons and that the Committee have been formed and one of it members has already arrived in India. The journal is of opinion that this enquiry should have been made nine years ago, when the plague first broke out, but though belated, it is nevertheless welcome.

BENGALEE, 2nd Aug. 1905.

Partition of Midnapore.

1003. The *Bengalee's* Tamluk correspondent is surprised to learn of a 'curious' scheme that is under the consideration of Government for the partitioning of Midnapore and the seclection of Khargpur as the head-quarters of the new district. The writer considers that Khargpur would not be a suitable place from an administrative point of view, as it is excessively remote from other parts of the district. A more central site should be selected if the formation of a new district is being seriously considered.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 2nd Aug. 1905.

The case of Raja Saroda Narayan Singh.

1004. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the avowed object of Government in prosecuting, Raja Saroda Narayan Singh, is to obtain a declaration from the Court that he is of unsound mind and then to place his estates, which he is alleged to be mismanaging, under the Court of Wards. The journal, however, thinks that the real cause of the prosecution has transpired in the course of the trial, and concludes a lengthy article on the subject with the following comment:—

"We have thus two important facts before us. The Raja used to pay monthly contribution of Rs. 100 and Rs 20 to the Giridih dispensary and school, respectively, and he stopped them in April last. He also promised Rs. 2,000 to the Hazaribagh Missionary College, which he failed to pay. The case of lunacy was brought against him in April last, after these incidents."

BENGALEE, 23rd Aug. 1905.

Alleged persecution by a Deputy Magistrate.

1005. The *Bengalee* writes that in October last, the Head Master of the Kurigram School was, in spite of the strenuous opposition of the Subdivisional Officer of Kurigram, removed from his post by a resolution passed by the majority of the School Committee. Although the Head Master was subsequently reinstated in his post by the Inspector of Schools, this circumstance has in no way altered the determination of the Subdivisional Officer to avenge himself on the members of the School Committee, for in some cases he has written to their employers urging their dismissal and in others, notably in the case of a *naib* in the service of the Maharaja of Cossimbazar, he has resorted to criminal proceedings.

BENGALEE, 4th Aug, 1905.

The Eden Hindu Hostel.

1006. The *Bengalee* writes that for some time past the boarders of the Eden Hostel have been complaining of the food supplied to them, which is so bad as to compel them to live principally on bazar-made sweets, etc. The only way to put a stop to this unsatisfactory state of things is to introduce the monitor system, which has been found to work so satisfactorily. In the meantime, the Superintendent should be required to take his meals with the boarders, as this will have the effect of improving the fare.

1007. The *Bengalee* publishes a lengthy list of arbitrary and severe punishments inflicted on his subordinates by Mr. Harrison, Examiner of Public Works Accounts, during the short space of twenty months, and draws the attention of the higher authorities to this list, which discloses a state of things unprecedented in the annals of public offices.

Mr. Harrison, Examiner of Accounts, Public Works Department.

BENGALEE, 4th Aug. 1905.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

1008. The *Indian Mirror* writes that Mr. R. C. Dutt's appointment as a member of the State Council of Baroda, has furnished Lord Curzon with another excuse for bringing the Native States still further within the grip of the Government of India. What reasonable objection can there be to Mr. Dutt's appointment? If retired Civilians are found eligible to hold high appointments in British territory, it is all the more reason why their services should be utilised by Native Chiefs. To fetter them in their choice is an unwarrantable interference. Meddlesomeness is a great weakness of Lord Curzon's and has made him the most unpopular of Indian Viceroys.

Mr. R. C. Dutt's Baroda appointment.

INDIAN MIRROR, 2nd Aug. 1905.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

1009. The *Indian Mirror* writes that keen distress bordering on famine is prevalent in certain parts of the Madras Presidency and people from the affected areas are making their way to the city, where numbers are found lying dead in the public streets. This is a serious menace to the public health and is causing great consternation, more particularly as the Government are taking no steps for the relief of the sufferers.

Distress in the Madras Presidency.

INDIAN MIRROR, 29th July 1905.

1010. Great distress, writes the *Indian Empire*, prevails in Southern and Western India owing to the enormous damage done to property and persons by the extraordinary rainfall and floods. The situation in the Madras Presidency is still more alarming, as famine is looming in the distance and already people are flocking to the cities, where they are dying plentifully from starvation, cholera, etc. The prospect is a very grave one indeed, and Government should stand by the people when so dire a calamity is about to overtake them.

Ibid.

INDIAN EMPIRE, 1st Aug. 1905.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL. OF POLICE, L. P.
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 29th July 1905.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Inspr.-Genl. of Police, L. P.

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